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ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION
CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

Ms. Donna M. Caton
Chief Clerk
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Ms. Caton:

Pursuant to 83 Illinois Administration Code Part 285.130, enclosed is the original and six copies of the completed standard filing to the Commission for a general increase in natural gas rates.

Kindly acknowledge receipt and should you need additional information, please advise. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas C. Walther".

Douglas C. Walther
Senior Attorney
United Cities Gas Company

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

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CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE

United Cities Gas Company)

Proposed general increase in)
natural gas rates.)

Docket No. _____

PETITION FOR APPEARANCE
BEFORE THE HEARING EXAMINER

Pursuant to the Rules of Practice of the Illinois Commerce Commission (83.Ill. Admin. Code, CH III, §200.90) United Cities Gas Company (United Cities) respectfully requests permission to allow its in-house counsel, who is a licensed attorney in a state other than Illinois, to appear before the Hearing Examiner in the above-referenced proceeding.

In support of this request United Cities submits that its in-house counsel, Douglas C. Walther, is in good standing with the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Missouri.

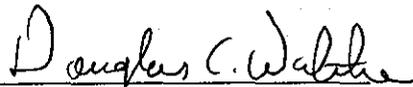
United Cities maintains that it will be cost effective and expeditious for its in-house counsel to appear before the Hearing Examiner for this application to increase its natural gas rates pursuant to 83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 285.130.

The name and address of the out-of-state attorney requesting leave to
appear before the Hearing Examiner:

Douglas C. Walther
Senior Counsel - United Cities Gas Company
Atmos Energy Corporation
1800 Three Lincoln Centre
5430 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75240
(972) 855-3102
Mo. Bar No. 32266

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of February 2000.

United Cities Gas Company



Douglas C. Walther

**GENERAL FILING FOR INCREASES IN
UTILITY RATES BEFORE THE ILLINOIS
COMMERCE COMMISSION**

Docket No.:

Date: February 17, 2000

Test Year Type: Historical

Test Year: Twelve Months Ended
September 30, 1999

Utility Name: United Cities Gas Company

Address: 810 Crescent Centre Drive, Suite 600
Franklin, TN 37067-6226

Telephone: (615) 771-8330

Utilities Official to be Contacted Pertaining to Rate Case Matters:

Mark G. Thessin

Filing Date: February 17, 2000

Title of Authorized Official: Vice President - Rates and Regulatory Affairs

Alternate Utility Official: Becky Buchanan, Senior Analyst
(615) 595-7700, Ext. 232

Attorney: Douglas C. Walther

Telephone: (972) 855-3102

Address: 5430 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, TX 75240

Increase Requested: \$3,151,322

Schedules Waived: None

Schedules Not Supplied: The following schedules are not supplied:
A-2, B-4.1, B-8.1, B-8.2, B-8.3,
B-8.4, C-4, C-16.1, C-16.2, C-16.3, & C-16.4.

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
) SS
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON)

Mark G. Thessin, being first duly sworn, on oath deposes and states he is Vice President, Rates and Regulatory Affairs with UNITED CITIES GAS COMPANY that he has read the foregoing Application for General Increase in Natural Gas Rates, knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his knowledge, information and belief.

Mark G. Thessin

Mark G. Thessin

Sworn to and subscribed before me,
This the 10th day of February 2000.

Luis Carver

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

July 26, 2003